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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/810,698	03/29/2004	Kuniyasu Matsumoto	1785.1014	1172
21171	7590	06/15/2007	EXAMINER	
STAAS & HALSEY LLP			PILKINGTON, JAMES	
SUITE 700			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W.			3682	
WASHINGTON, DC 20005				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
06/15/2007		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/810,698	MATSUMOTO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	James Pilkington	3682	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 April 2007.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) 5,6 and 8 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) 1-4 and 7 is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/29/04 & 8/17/04. 6) Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Claims 5, 6 and 8 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on April 24, 2007.

Priority

2. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The information disclosure statement filed 3/29/04 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3) because it does not include a concise explanation of the relevance, as it is presently understood by the individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the content of the information, of each patent listed that is not in the English language. It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered (references AG, AH and AI).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fiora, USP 6,014,909.

Fiora discloses a laying device comprising:

- A relaying means (57, Figure 4) for relaying an arm side section of the line element (section 55 is on the arm side) extending through said hollow portion (inside arm member 20) out of a lead-out opening (hole in 56) formed on a side of said rotation shaft member (20)
- A tool side section of line element (58) extending from the tool (the tool is attached at flange 24)
- A direction in which said relaying means (57) connects the line element is substantially parallel to said tool mount surface (flange 24) and forms an angle other than 0 degrees with regard to a radial direction perpendicular to the rotation axis (21) (the relay means are elbow connections, therefore it extends both parallel to the tool mount surface and at an angle other than 0 degrees to a radial direction perpendicular to the rotation axis)
- Wherein said relaying means (57) is provided in the vicinity of said lead-out opening (see Figure 4)
- A plurality of pairs of lead-out openings and associated relay means (Fiora discloses 10 openings and relay means or in other words 5 pairs)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fiora '909 as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Szydel, USP 5,77,267.

Fiora discloses all of the claimed subject matter as described above.

Fiora does not disclose that the relay means are arranged side by side in the direction of the rotation axis.

Szydel teaches relay means (50/51/52 and 63/64) are arranged side by side in the direction of the rotation axis (see Figure 1 axis 4A/6A) for the purpose of providing an assembly which facilitates the routing of the supply lines in a robot arm such that the amount of flexing and bending of the lines is reduced and reduce the possibility the supply lines will be caught and damaged in the joints (C2/L43-49).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Fiora and provide for the relay means to be arranged side by side in the direction of the rotation axis, as taught by Szydel, for the purpose of providing an assembly which facilitates the routing of the supply lines in a robot arm such that the amount of flexing and bending of

the lines is reduced and reduce the possibility the supply lines will be caught and damaged in the joints.

Requirement for Information Under 37 CFR §1.105

8. Applicant and the assignee of this application are required under 37 CFR 1.105 to provide the following information that the examiner has determined is reasonably necessary to the examination of this application.

9. In response to this requirement, please provide the citation and a copy of each publication known by the assignee describing the technology disclosed in the admitted prior art. Also provide any information pertaining to the use, sale or demonstration of the admitted prior art in this or any other country.

For each publication, please provide a concise explanation of the reliance placed on that publication in distinguishing the claimed subject matter from the prior art.

10. The fee and certification requirements of 37 CFR §1.97 are waived for those documents submitted in reply to this requirement. This waiver extends only to those documents within the scope of this requirement under 37 CFR §1.105 that are included in the applicant's first complete communication responding to this requirement. Any supplemental replies subsequent to the first communication responding to this requirement and any information disclosures beyond the scope of this requirement under 37 CFR §1.105 are subject to the fee and certification requirements of 37 CFR 1.97.

11. In responding to those requirements that require copies of documents, where the document is a bound text or a single article over 50 pages, the

Art Unit: 3682

requirement may be met by providing copies of those pages that provide the particular subject matter indicated, the subject matter found in applicant's disclosure.

12. The applicant is reminded that the reply to this requirement must be made with candor and good faith under 37 CFR 1.56. Where the applicant does not have or cannot readily obtain an item of required information, a statement that the item is unknown or cannot be readily obtained will be accepted as a complete response to the requirement for that item.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James Pilkington whose telephone number is (571) 272-5052. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00AM-4:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Ridley can be reached on (571) 272-6917. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3682

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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5/31/07



RICHARD RIDLEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER